

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An interlabial pad with a size, weight, and flexibility capable of being held between labia by pinching a part or the whole portion of the interlabial pad naturally therebetween, having a first axis that is substantially parallel to an anteroposterior axis of a wearer, and a second axis which is perpendicular to the first axis, direction of substantial parallel arrangement ("parallel direction") towards said labia and a direction of substantial vertical arrangement ("vertical direction"), further comprising, an absorbent body for absorbing body fluid and a coating material for enclosing the said absorbent body, which defines a main form of the said interlabial pad, wherein:

the said absorbent body includes one or a plurality of bending elements including a slit formed straight line and a curved line form with a prescribed length and depth a prescribed width, the said bending elements provided in a prescribed position of the said interlabial pad and formed of a part with a smaller bending strength compared to parts other than the said prescribed position.

2. (currently amended) The interlabial pad according to as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said bending element is formed of a bending element piece in which the slit said part with a smaller bending strength is extended for a prescribed length, and the said bending element piece is a "vertical bending element piece" being extended substantially parallel with the second axis said vertical direction.

3. (currently amended) The interlabial pad according to as claimed in claim 2, wherein the said vertical bending element piece is arranged to cross a center line of the said interlabial pad, which lies along the first axis said parallel direction of the said interlabial pad.

4. (currently amended) The interlabial pad according to as-claimed in claim 1, wherein: the said bending element is formed of a bending element piece in which the slit said part with a smaller bending strength is extended for a prescribed length; and the said absorbent body of the said interlabial pad comprises a plurality of the said bending element pieces being extended for a prescribed length in a state where the said pieces are positioned substantially parallel with each other so that, when the said absorbent body is extended flat, the said plurality of bending element pieces appear to be in a checkboard pattern.

5. (currently amended) The interlabial pad according to as-claimed in claim 1, wherein: the said bending element is formed of a bending element piece in which the slit said part with a smaller bending strength is extended for a prescribed length; and a plurality of the said bending element pieces are arranged in a line that is symmetrical to be in line symmetry with respect to the center line of the said interlabial pad, which lies along the first axis said parallel direction of the said interlabial pad.

6. (currently amended) The interlabial pad according to as-claimed in claim 1, wherein: the said bending element is formed of a bending element piece in which the slit said part with a smaller bending strength is extended for a prescribed length; and the said bending element piece is a [""]parallel bending element piece[""] being extended substantially parallel with the first axis said parallel direction.

7. (currently amended) The interlabial pad according to as-claimed in claim 1, wherein the said parallel bending element piece is arranged near the center line of the said interlabial pad, which lies along the first axis said parallel direction of the said interlabial pad.

8. (currently amended) The interlabial pad according to as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said bending element is formed of a bending element piece in which the slit said part with a smaller bending strength is extended ~~for a prescribed length~~, and the said bending element piece is arranged to reach the peripheral edges of the said absorbent body.

9. (currently amended) The interlabial pad according to as claimed in claim 1, wherein: said bending element is formed of a first bending element piece and a second bending element piece, in which the slit said part with a smaller bending strength is extended in both the first bending element piece and the second bending element piece, wherein: ~~for a prescribed length, and~~

[[a]] the first bending element piece is extended for a first prescribed length, is [[in]] substantially parallel with the second axis, and ~~said vertical direction~~ is positioned to cross the center line of the said interlabial pad, which lies along the first axis ~~said parallel direction~~;

[[a]] the second bending element piece is extended for a second prescribed length, is [[in]] substantially parallel with the first axis, and ~~said parallel direction~~ is positioned near the center line of the said interlabial pad; and

the said first bending element piece and the said second bending element piece cross each other near the center line of the said interlabial pad.

10. (previously presented) The interlabial pad according to as claimed in claim 1, wherein: the said bending element is formed of a bending element piece in which the slit said part with a smaller bending strength is extended ~~for a prescribed length~~; and the said bending element piece is positioned, in the direction of the second axis ~~in said vertical direction~~, ~~in the halfway~~ between ~~a~~ the center part positioned near the center line of the said interlabial pad and peripheral edges of the said interlabial pad, and extends for a

15. (currently amended) The interlabial pad according to as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said interlabial pad is a pad for an incontinence of urine.

16. (currently amended) The interlabial pad according to as claimed in claim 1, wherein the said interlabial pad is a pad for absorbing vaginal discharge.

17. (currently amended) A method of adjusting a form flexibility used for an interlabial pad with a size, weight, flexibility capable of being held between labia by a part or the whole portion of the interlabial pad being naturally inserted therebetween, having a first axis that is substantially parallel to an anteroposterior axis of a wearer, and a second axis which is perpendicular to the first axis ~~direction of substantial parallel arrangement ("parallel direction") towards said labia and a direction of substantial vertical arrangement ("vertical direction")~~, further comprising:

an absorbent body for absorbing body fluid and a coating material for enclosing said absorbent body, said absorbent body defining a main form of the said interlabial pad; and one or a plurality of bending elements including a slit formed with a prescribed length and depth, provided in a prescribed position of the said interlabial pad with a lower ~~smaller~~ bending strength compared to a part other than the said prescribed position, wherein the method comprises the step of:

adjusting the form flexibility of the said interlabial pad by a bending element application method using the said bending element.

18. (currently amended) The method of adjusting a form flexibility according to as claimed in claim 17, wherein the said bending element application method comprises the step of changing the form, number, positioning area, and arrangement of the said bending element.